The Logger's Bark
RADIO CLUB of TACOMA

MAY 2023 VOLUME 20 ISSUE 05 ©Radio Club of Tacoma W7DK

FROM THE EDITOR!

Hello again from Beautiful, Downtown Lakewood, Warshington!

It's almost June and by this time next month, we should either be done for another year or just be getting ready to "Go to the Field!"

Field Day is always the last full weekend of June, which is the 24th and 25th this year with set-up on Friday the 23rd. Let's all try to go out and help, operate a station, set up antennas or just come out to the Field Day site to see what's going on.

This year, again, we will be in the east field at Western State

Hospital at the corner of 87th and Steilacoom in Lakewood. This is the same site that we have been going to for many years, but if you need further info it's all on the website here: w7dk.org under the "Activities / Field day" tab.

Repairs on the club-house continue as time permits. Check out the progress either in person or on page 12. A new column By Dave, W7UUU is also in the "Bark" this month. Check it out!

73 Gary WG7X

Page 1: Editors report.

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Radio Club of Tacoma
Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
May 3, 2023

Meeting called to order at 19:00 Local by President Mike W7XTZ

Officers and Directors Present

President	Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
Vice President	Adam Barbera W2NCC
Secretary	Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE
Treasurer	Steve Dightman AF7YD
Board	Bruce Hanson WE7P
Board	Paul Matney W7PFU
Board	Doug Schafer AB7DG
Board	Red Cranefield WB7EC
Board	Phil Pia K7PIA

Quorum?

A quorum of the Board was present and a total of twenty-one voting members attended in person or via ZOOM.

Silent Key or Illness?

No update on Bob and Gretta Hewlett. There is still concern about Doug Oakman and we wish him well in his grief recovery.

Approval of Minutes of April 5, 2023, Board Meeting as distributed. Without objections, the minutes were approved as distributed.

Secretary's Report (W7MKE)

Mike W7MKE reported that all correspondence received was routine. He stated that he had distributed Standing Rules update to all Board Members and committee chairs. To date the Secretary has received very little response and asked if we wanted to continue to have Standing rules. It was suggested that they be noted as policies. It was suggested that we perhaps do an update little-by-little at our Monthly Meetings. It was also suggested that we hold Zoom meetings to do the update. The consensus of those attending is that we should continue to have these policies. Mike W7MKE will organize Zoom meetings.

Treasurer's Report

Steve AF7YD submitted a written financial report which is attached to this report. Members are reminded that financial reports that are approved are posted on the website for viewing if you log on as a club member. Also, questions may be submitted to the Treasurer.

Committee / Reports

Membership (W7XH/K7GRS)

Mike W7XH reported that membership stands at 299. He asked that we please invite others to attend Saturday's open house as that leads to getting more club members.

Library (AD7AV)

George K7GRS reported that books can be checked out one at a time for 21-days and can be

checked out again by the same person only after a 7-day wait. The cards for check out should be in the back of the books.

Training (AD7AB)
Stephen reported via email that there will be a class this weekend and apparently several people have signed up.
As concerning our participation in the WA State Fair, Mike W7XTZ suggested that he should write a letter to the President of the Fair asking why we can't get a response to our inquiries about what might be available.

VE (AC7WW)
John AC7WW submitted a written report as follows: Your VE team traveled to JBLM on Friday April 28, 2023. Twenty-eight Exam Elements were graded from 13 candidates. Eleven Technicians joined the amateur service and one candidate passed elements 2 and 3 to become a General.
Thanks to Jan K7HTU, Mike W7XH, Stephen AD7AB and Steven AI7QM.
The next scheduled test session is Tuesday May 9th, 2023.

Info Tech and Website (WB4SPB)
Randy WB4SPB reported all systems nominal.

HF Operation (K7PIA)
Phil K7PIA reported all HF stations are operational except the Amp at the Flex station. Dan KD7SV reported he will check out the Amp soon. He further stated that we are looking for a Drake watt meter for that station. Phil suggested www.contestcalendar.com for radio sport. This weekend is 7QP QSO party. Everyone is invited upstairs on Saturdays. Phil didn't report any upcoming DX.

Tower (K7MO)
Adam W2NCC reported that the tower repairs will be in three climb phases. Phase one: remove rusted equipment and fittings. Phase two: replace standoffs for 30-, 40-, and 80-meter antennas, final phase: replace coax and install heliax. Adam had no definite timetable except it would be after the house is repaired.

Repeater Ops (N7OMS)
Dan KD7SV reported a Bates work party is supposed to happen next week where we will place the transmitter and duplexers that are both now tuned into the new building. Finally, we need to add extensions to the heliax which is why we need to contact the Bates engineer to get access to the base of the tower as the existing heliax that needs extending terminates inside that enclosure.

Facilities Mgmt (W2NCC)

Adam W2NCC reported that fascia and soffit work is ongoing. The parking lot side of the clubhouse fascia and soffit are repaired and painted so we just need to replace the gutter. The fascia and soffits on the other side where the power drop is located are in bad shape and the fascia needs to be replaced and some window repairs need to be made as well. We need to move the scaffolding to that side and need to coordinate with the power company for the power drop. Adam also is anticipating reroofing the garage.

Property Mgmt. (WB7EC)

Red WB7EC reported they are continuing to liquidate items that were taken to M&K but didn't sell. PMT took in $208 in April. PMT reduced prices for our membership on equipment left over after M&K and in July those prices will go back up and items will be put back in inventory for M&K.

Museum (KD7SV)

Dan KD7SV reported he's looking for some parts for various repairs. He showed a 5-position ceramic switch he obtained from eBay that should be good for use on some of our radios.

Weds Workshop (WB4SPB)

Randy reported that he doesn't have a topic for May yet. Randy again called for suggestions and for others with a topic to lead a meeting.

General Meeting (W7UUU)

Dave W7UUU reported via email that he thought the general meeting would be about Field Day and Rod W7RKZ stated he'd be pleased to do the show he did recently for 4th Wednesday.

Unfinished Business :

Any updates to Field Day? Mike W7XH is still hoping for donated power cables. He agreed to submit a budget for power cords at the June BOD.

Updates on Insurance inventory (AF7YD) Steve AF7YD reports he's been working with PMT on a revised equipment inventory numbering system and suggests each committee chair keep equipment lists up to date once implemented. His next step is to get further information from PMT to refine the numbering process and then turn it over to Al N7OMS who's volunteered to take up the task with committee chairs.

Update on acquisition of IC-7610 (W2NCC) Adam W2NCC reported that he has 3 pieces of equipment to put on craig's list and once sold he'll have enough money to get the radio. He plans to have the radio available for field day. Mike W7XTZ emphasized that the purchase of this radio is not from the club treasury but is being made possible through individual contributions and sales of equipment specifically donated to Adam (not the club) for this purpose.

Update on Grant Writing (W2NCC) Adam W2NCC has not yet taken up the writing but feels there are three areas that could get funding. Repeaters, the tower and to get old Logger's Bark scanned and OCR'd.

Update on Training Videos for HF radios (N7OMS/W7UUU) No report but it is thought that Al is working on a script.

Update EmComm group Visit 5/8/23 @ 6PM? (AF7YD) Steve AF7YD remains in communication with a group who are mostly located in the North End of Tacoma and are loosely organized like a CERT group. The visit is still planned for 5/8 and he's talked to Dave N7HT, and they don't think it will interfere with his General Class training. This group mentioned they want information on using non-licensed radios and it sounds like they have questions in general. Steve suggests that perhaps knowledge of the Safe and Well messaging program may also be in order.

New Business

Mike W7XH reported that if adjustments to membership dues are needed, we need to take that up now so membership forms for the September and October mailings can be adjusted. He recapped the existing Dues and asked the Board if they felt changes were needed. There was various discussion but a need to adjust dues was not identified. **Mike W7MKE moved** that we make no changes to the dues for 2024. Motion was seconded by Adam W2NCC. **Motion carried.**

There has recently been some misunderstanding about the proper way to submit articles for publication at the Club. Mike W7XTZ stated that based on conversations with Board of Directors we want it understood that we have one official newsletter called the Logger's Bark and we have an editor who is Gary WG7X. Submission must go to the Editor who decides the BARK's content and has authority to make final decisions on content. The BOD fully supports Gary as the Logger's Bark editor and would appreciate it if those wanting to publish articles coordinate with Gary.

Activity Reports, Discussion Topics, Announcements Steve AF7YD reported that a small group of club members working with ARES assisted the recently held Tacoma Marathon using HTs and the 440-repeater located at Bates.

Adjournment at 20:38

Submitted by:

Michael Drorbaugh
RCT Secretary

Radio Club of Tacoma
General Meeting Minutes
May 10th 2023

Officers and Directors Present

President Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ

Vice President Adam Barbera W2NCC

Secretary Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE

Treasurer Steve Dightman AF7YD

Board Doug Schafer AB7DG

Board Phil Pia K7PIA

Board Paul Matney K7PFU

Board Red Cranefield WB7EC

Meeting Called to Order at 7pm by President Mike W7XTZ

Flag Salute was led by President Mike W7XTZ

Quorum? A quorum of current voting members WAS NOT present. Twenty-nine members and guests attended via zoom or in person.

Welcome and Acknowledgement of New Members and Visitors: Jeff Winget visited and holds a GMRS license WRJT966. He expressed interest in getting his amateur license and lives out near Ft. Steilacoom. He served in the Air Force as a ground communications operator.

Health and Welfare/Silent Key & Illness

Nothing offered.

PROGRAM: Rod Kirsch W7RKZ, reviewed our Field Day Plans for 2023 and answered questions.

Secretary's Report

Mike W7MKE stated that all correspondence was routine this month. He is trying to review the Standing Rules, last looked at in 2013 but possibly not ratified then. The suggested plan is that each year in February the rules, which it is suggested should be called policies rather than rules, should be reviewed for current relevance. Mike will be setting up Zoom meetings to go over those policies and asked if anyone specifically wants to be notified of those meetings to help in reviewing the policies. Mike Isakson W7XH, Larry Watson KD7VOM and Steve Dightman AF7YD volunteered to aid Mike. After their review, the policies will be sent to the BOD for approval.

Treasurer's Report

Steve AF7YD reported that bills are current, and that income and expenses are about even at this point in the year but with the extent of clubhouse repairs he expects to see a decline in our total cash assets at the year's end. He reminds members that they can review financial reports approved by the BOD in the minutes posted on the website.

Committee / Activity Reports

Membership (W7XH/K7GRS)

Mike W7XH reports membership stands at 299, up from 235 at the beginning of the year. Mike reminded us that two-thirds of the club members are over 65 years old, and many can offer help to new, younger members should we get them. All club members should invite others to visit the club.

Steve AF7YD reported on the visit from a local North End group who are trying to set up something like an ARES group. Steve conducted a show and tell of the club and its capabilities and answered lots of questions from the group who ranged from age 20 to 40 years old.

Training (AD7AB)

Stephen AD7AB and Mike Robinson AD7TH conducted a technician class Saturday and Sunday.

VE Report (AC7WW)

Mike W7XH and Leonard KA7NWF reported that there was a VE session last night and there was a total of 15 people tested.

HF Operations (K7PIA)

Phil K7PIA reported that all HF stations are operational. The Drake L4-B amplifier at the Elecraft station was moved to the Flex station and the KPA 500 stays in use at the Elecraft station. Dan KD7SV is working on the Drake L4-B that needs service. Phil invites everyone to visit the HF room on Saturdays to operate our radios. If you want to contest, let Phil know and he can get the radios and logging setup. Check out www.contestcalendar.com for radio sport.

Repeater Operations (N7OMS)

Nothing reported but several members have viewed Nick K7MO and Al N7OMS working on the repeater in the back of the classroom. Al was supposed to have a Bates work party, but no one had reliable information.

IT Report/4th Wed Night Activity (WB4SPB)

Randy WB4SPB reports all (computer) stations are nominal. He said he always appreciates reports of broken links or incorrect postings on the website. He further said that members should check out the swap n' shop page. He added something today, a phone number of a Ham in Auburn who may have to sell his stuff.

Randy thinks that he may do a program on propagation for 4th Wednesday.

Museum (KD7SV)

Dan KD7SV reports working on the Drake L4-B and reviewed some of the important considerations in using the Drake amplifier.

- Keep plate current under 400ma but prefers 300ma max.
- When turning on the amplifier, please turn it on with the rocker switch in CW mode.

Property Management (WB7EC)

Red WB7EC said that PMT took in $208 in April. He said that there are reduced prices to members on equipment that was not sold at Mike & Key this year. Check it out as those prices will go back up in July. He also mentioned that they have recently received lots of stuff and haven't yet checked it all out or inventoried it so expect new stuff soon.

Facilities Management (W2NCC)

Adam W2NCC reported on clubhouse work that is ongoing. Several members have come out to help and he mentioned those he could remember off hand. The next session will be Friday the 12th starting around 10am and will just be painting the front porch handrails and posts and painting some of the windows. No ladder or

scaffold work on Friday. The fascia on the 14th Street side is removed for replacement. The gable end facing the garage is done except for the corner "eyebrow" details that the contractor is working on. He must do some wood shaping to finish there. The gable over the front porch will be worked on next week. Mike W7XH will be coordinating the work around the power drop and power to the clubhouse will be down for at least a day, possible next Tuesday, and he will let everyone know when the power outage will happen.

Bark Editor (WG7X)

Gary WG7X reported we had a good April *Logger's BARK,* and he expects to have another good one in May. If you do Ham stuff, please take pictures or write up your adventure and send it to him so that future **BARK** issues can be informative.

Unfinished Business

Mike W7XTZ and Stephen AD7AB went to the Puyallup fairgrounds to find out if the Radio Club could take part in the WA State Fair this year. Arguments about our long tenure at the fair and our community service seemed to not be of concern to fair management at this time. Basically, Mike reports they kind of got the run around and the answer is: we can't have a space as before so RCT will not participate in this year's fair.

New Business

Nothing offered.

Announcements/show and tell/ traffic & Tuning

Dave W7UUU had several announcements.

• Dave reports he hasn't had any activity with the Logger's Certificate so if you know someone who should apply, let them know. It was suggested that Dave should print a sample and post it at the Clubhouse and/or put a post in the Logger's Bark.
• Dave reminds everyone that the club's picnic is August 6th at Ft. Steilacoom again.
• Dave updated his efforts with Al N7OMS on making a training video for using the Flex.
• Dave said that on Memorial Day he will be mounting his big StepIR DB18 on his tower and all are invited to come out and watch that being done.
• Next month our program will be on limited space antennas, a comparison of 4 limited space antennas mounted indoors vs. the same antenna mounted outdoors.

Adam W2NCC is going to Sea Pac and will have a table. Walt WA7SDY is helping with security at SeaTac. Dave W7UUU will be presenting at Sea Pac.

The Dayton, OH Hamvention on May 19th. The programs will be live streamed.

Larry Watson KD4VOM reported that each Tuesday the ARES group has about 100-120 check ins and he will be happy to make relevant announcements. He reminds us that GMRS and FRS members are good possibilities for new club members.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm Submitted by Michael Drorbaugh – W7MKE RCT Secretary

QRZ

by Dave W7UUU

News you can use!

Welcome to this new monthly column, with news and information from the worlds largest ham radio site, www.QRZ.com
I've been a moderator in the QRZ forums for over six years, and beginning the first of 2023, I was brought on as one of the paid QRZ staff and took over as Director of QRZ Forums! Most hams will know the name QRZ, if for nothing else than as the place to go to look up a call sign or perhaps to peruse the popular Swap Meet forums.

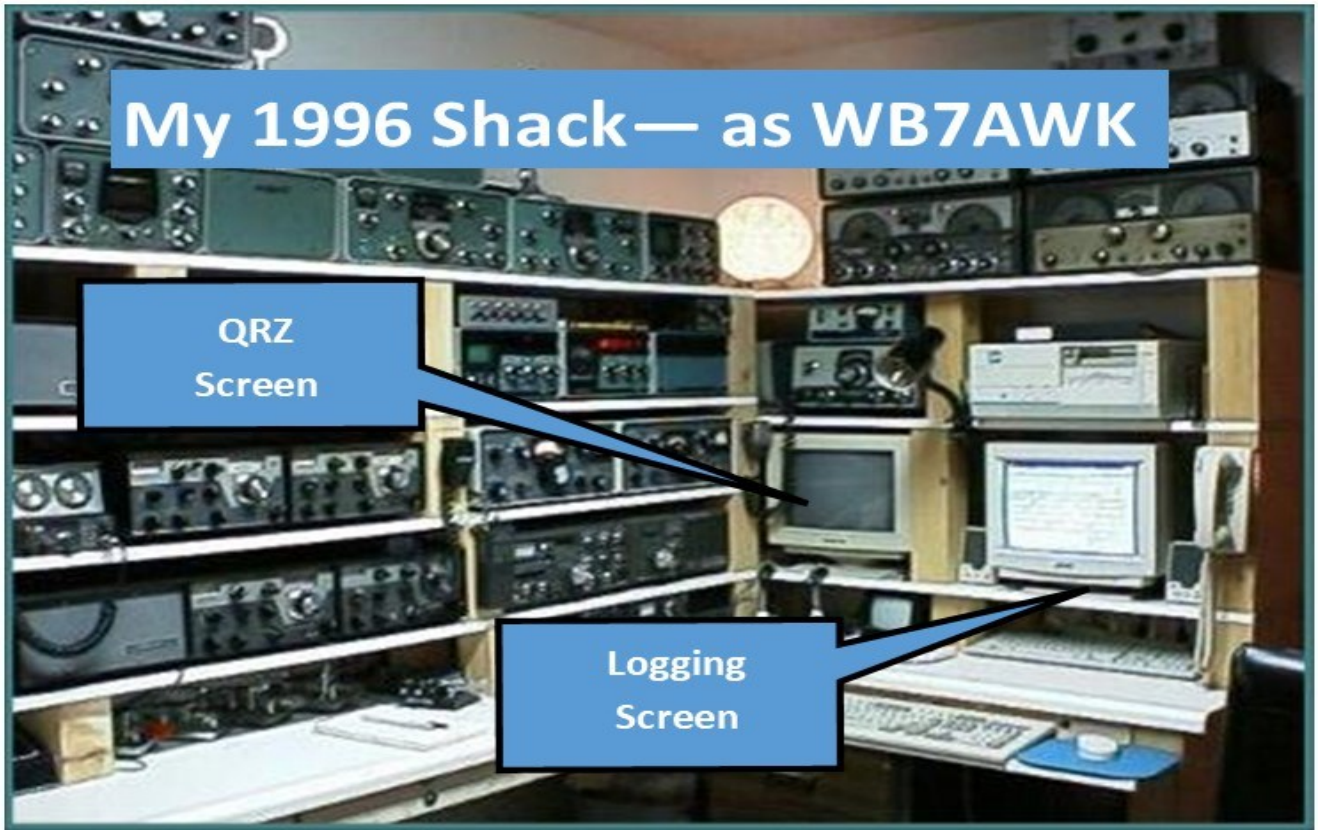
Every month I will bring you behind-the-scenes updates on what QRZ is up to, site changes coming, back stories on how some of the systems work and why, along with interesting, funny or insightful blurbs from the millions of postings on the site.

For this month's intro column, how about some QRZ site statistics: QRZ hosts just shy of *one million* active user accounts worldwide, growing daily. At any given moment, there are over 1500 active users posting and reading in the forums.

QRZ!
Ham Radio CDROM
For DOS and Windows
QRZ! Ham Radio for Dos and Windows volume 3
SUMMER 1994
ISO 9660 FORMAT
Walnut Creek CDROM
1547 Palos Verdes Mall, Suite 260
Walnut Creek CA 94596
+1 510 674-0783 FAX +1 510 674-0821
info@cdrom.com
copyright © 1994 Walnut Creek CDROM
Ham Radio Callbook, FCC regs, radio and scanner mods, DX lists, Simtel Ham Radio programs
Type "GO" to start
Made in USA

What many users of QRZ may not even know, the famous call sign database actually started in the Spring of 1993 in the form of a computer CD ROM disc that required an MSDOS program to read! I remember very well having the QRZ CDs back then, and in fact had dual computers in my shack: one running my Microsoft Excel Logging Program, and the other running the QRZ Lookup Software and CD ROM! The RFI from those ancient monitors was so bad I had to keep them off while on the air, only hitting the power switch to look up a call sign, and enter it into my log program. My how times have changed—and Happy 30th Birthday to QRZ.com!

That's about it for now but be watching this space for fun stuff, tips and tricks, and hidden features of the site you may not know about. And if you have specific questions, please do send me an email: W7UUU@W7DK.org and I'll be happy to post answers to most any QRZ question as space allows every month. Until then, 73 and "See you on the Zed"



For historical reasons, Editor has included a couple of pictures illustrating Dave's progress over the years. Top 1996, bottom current. Shack went thru various changes over the years, some voluntary, some not as chronicled on Dave's QRZ.com page.

MAILBAG!

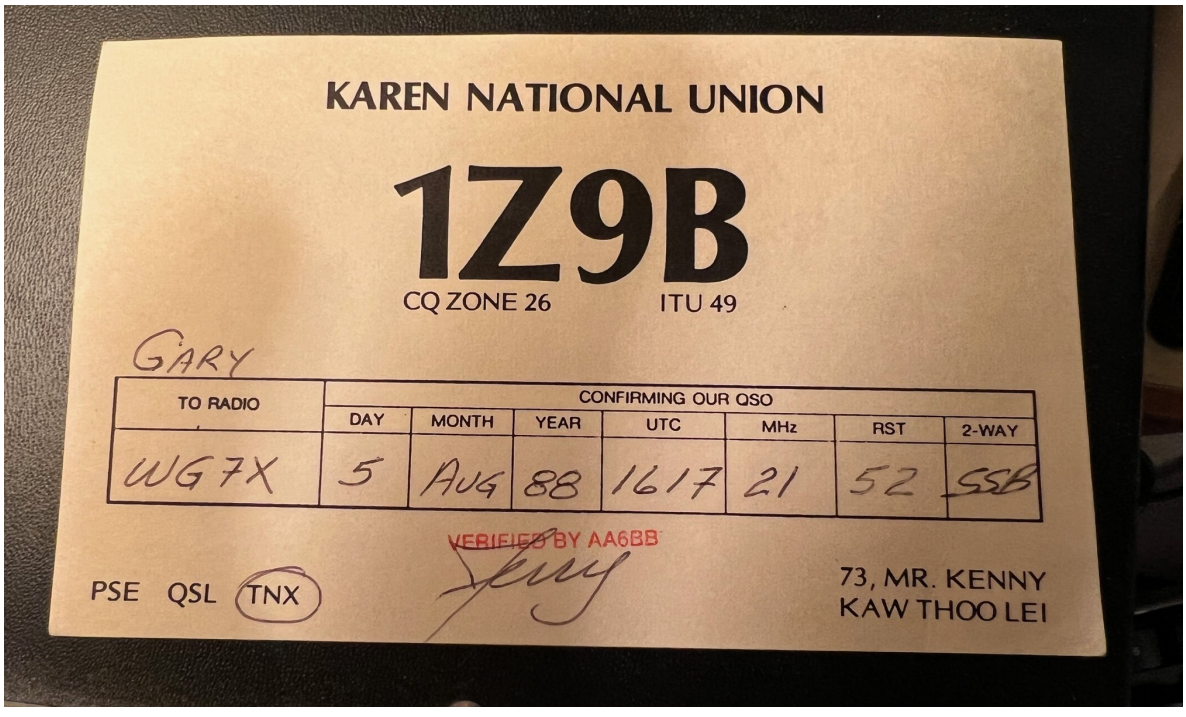
Notice from the Head Librarian Doug Oakman AD7AV — Policy for the Doug DeMaw Circulating Library has been changed slightly.

For the good of the club order, only ONE book or resource at a time may be checked out from the DeMaw Library, still only for a period of 21 days until needing to be returned. Upon return, the same book may not be renewed until it has been available to other members for one week (whether in return box or on shelf). Please be sure to complete the check-out card with Member Number and date out/back in. Check-out cards should remain in the check-out box until librarians deal with them.

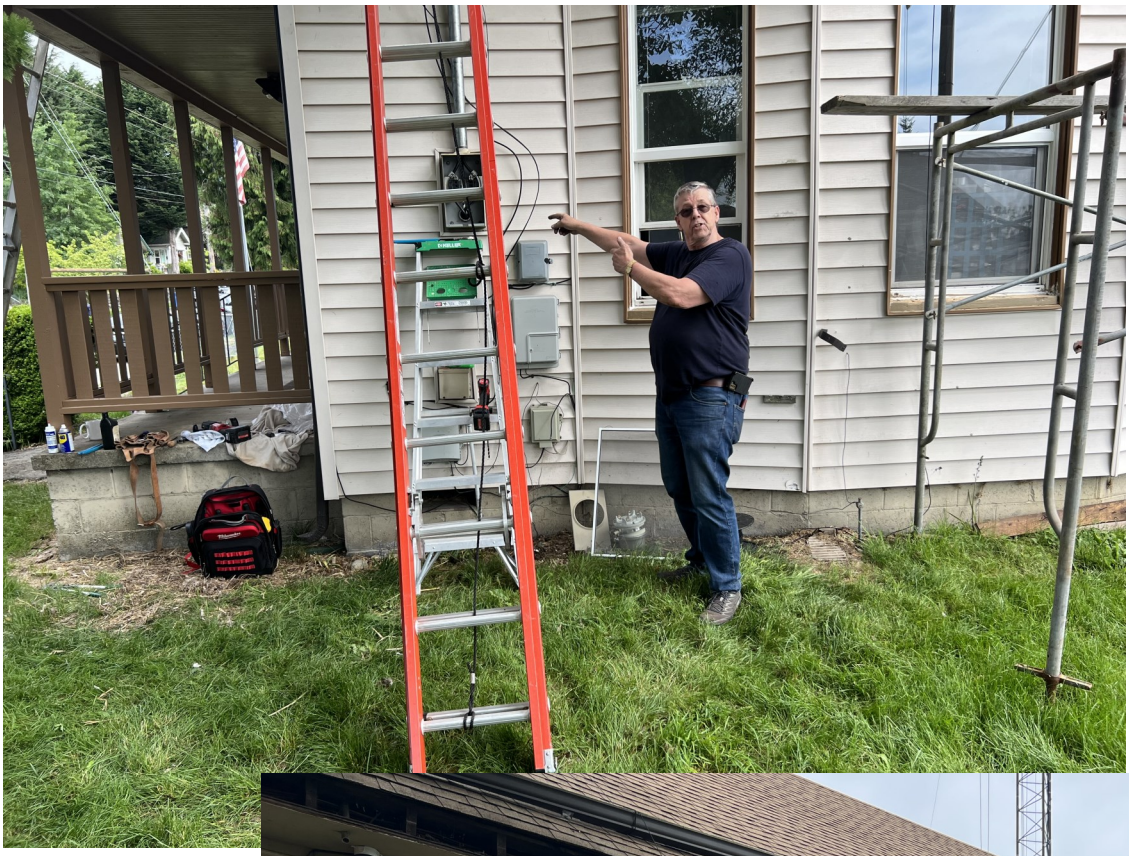
This policy encourages getting a book or resource be read through in timely fashion, as well as to enable greater access for other members. The librarians are committed to having the best system for maintaining library access and integrity. Please direct any comments or concerns to Head Librarian Doug at

oakmande@plu.edu.

From the way back files: During a conversation about DX and various nations; this “nation” was brought up as an example of an entity that, even though it was not a separate country, it was still good for DXCC. QSL was shown as proof and accepted by ARRL… So there! Neener, neener!



AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE: REPAIR EDITION… Part III



So… If you did not make it to the recent continuation of the clubhouse repairs, here are some pictures from the latest gathering. Work party was on May 12th and there were a few of us there: Mike W7XH, Paul K7OSS,

Paul W7PFU,

Nick K7MO and Gary WG7X

Above, We see Mike W7XH pointing at his recent installation of a new weather head for the club's electrical system. This was made necessary by the work done to the soffits and fascia's around the building. At lower right we see mike being awful tired after all that work! Good job Mike!

Left, we see the Tacoma Power guys attaching the electrical lines to the new weather head.

Below, some other pix showing the cool equipment that they have ready to do a job. We tried to talk them into letting us borrow the bucket truck for field day.

The workers were OK with the idea, but said that their boss would probably take a dim view of our idea!

Silly boss man...

Left below, there's Mike W7MKE on the porch roof during the first work party. No real pix from the second work party because there were only two of us there, Gary WG7X and Doug AB7DG! Contractor had "issues" and it was basically just us two sitting around waiting, so no Pix!

While all that was going on outside, Chef Paul W7PFU was busy inside making lunch for all the hard working hams!

The most important pictures of the whole day! Top: the two Paul's: K7OSS and W7PFU cleaning up after the cheese burgers! W7PFU did his usual fine grilling and we did the eating and cleaning up.

Left: Mike W7XH doing something and Nick K7MO after running a quality check on the cheeseburgers!

Hard job, but someone had to do it!

The Mighty DK's!

Monthly QSO Report

Each month in the *Bark* the Radio Club of Tacoma recognizes the members and guests who have made non-contest QSOs using the HF stations at our clubhouse. Saturday Open House, especially, is a time when members have access to this equipment. Why not sit down at one of our operating desks and make a contact or two? Assistance is almost always available for those unfamiliar with the equipment, and if your license class doesn't permit HF operation, ask the denizens of the HF Room or the Saturday clubhouse host to help you find a suitably-licensed control operator to sit with you.

It's a feather in the club's hat for the call sign of **The Mighty DK** to be heard on the airwaves. So get on the air and get your name in the *Bark*! (Don't forget to enter your call sign as the operator into our logging program.)

QSOs April 29 through May 20, 2023:

- Unknown op: 2
- Mike W7MKE: 21
- Mike W7XH: 47

Elmer Board

Do you need help with some area in ham radio?

Here is a place……. First is the listing of areas of support, followed by a list of members' areas of interest.

1.Technical questions, Classes.

2. Help with Code

3. License Examinations.

4. Antenna and Station planning.

5. Antenna and Tower erection.

6. Buying new or used equipment.

7. Equipment repair.

8. Understanding and operating your equipment.

9. DX and Contests.

10. Club and ARRL activities.

11. Using test equipment.

12. IRLP , Digital, SDR, ARPS, Winlink,Vara, Satellite

NAME / CALLSIGN / TELEPHONE / HELP WITH LISTED TOPIC(S)

Adam W2NCC 360-870-7894 (4,5,6,7,11)

Al N7OMS 253-495-9068 (10,12)

Dave N7HT 253-363-1692 (1,2,4,6,8)

Dave W7UUU 253-820-0890 (2,4,6,9)

Gary WG7X 253-327-0503 (1,4,5,6,8,9,10,11,12)

Mike W7XTZ 253-405-8095 (6,8,10)

Phil K7PIA 253-307-4781 (9,10,12)

Randy WB4SPB 253-761-9391 (2)

Stephen AD7AB 253-212-9437 (1,3,4,12)

Steve AF7YD 253-988-0878 Open for any questions on any situation.

The Club LINEUP

Club Officers

President: Mike Mikuchonis –W7XTZ w7xtz©w7dk.org

Vice Pres: Adam Barbera, W2NCC - w2ncc©w7dk.org

Secretary: Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE - w7mke@w7dk.org

Treasurer: Steve Dightman, AF7YD - af7yd©w7dk.org

5 Board Members

Bruce Hanson, WE7P - we7p©w7dk.org

Paul Matney, W7PFU - w7pfu©w7dk.org

Doug Schafer AB7DG©w7dk.org

Red Cranefield, WB7EC - wb7ec©w7dk.org

Phil Pia, K7PIA - k7pia©w7dk.org

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The Fine Print: The Logger's Bark is published once a month for the membership of The Radio Club of Tacoma or interested ham radio enthusiasts. The Bark is delivered by PDF file on the club's website: www.w7dk.org.

Permission is granted to use any or all portions of articles published in The Logger's Bark if a credit line is included in the article. Please seek permission from the original writer also.

Membership Info: FULL (licensed) and ASSOCIATE (non licensed) membership is $35 per calendar year or $30 for Licensed Seniors (65 and over). Licensed family members at same address pay $20 each for the first two and are free for the third, fourth, and so on. Full-time students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are $20 per year. Note: fees are applicable for the calendar year: Jan to Dec. Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.

www.w7dk.org [LINK] - For the latest and most current information on events and activities, visit the Radio Club of Tacoma Website.

Radio Club Repeaters

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5

Crawford Mountain 147.380 + PL=103.5 (E of Olympia © 1500 ft ASL)

Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5

North Tacoma: 145.21 – PL=141.3